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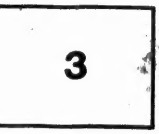

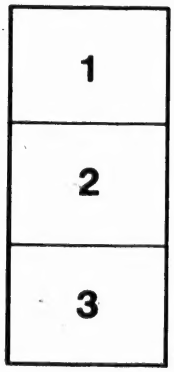

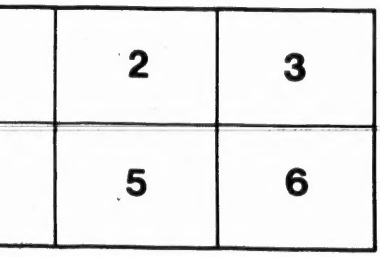

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A

POETICAL ESSAY

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UPON

BAPTISM.

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A POETICAL ESSAY

UPON

BAPTISM.*

Pedobaptist. When God made man a living soul
To people earth from pole to pole,
He made a covenant with the whole:
Infants unborn were in the roll,
Therefore they were not Baptists.

Baptist. Alas! man's woe was heard full well a
When he broke covenant and fell:
His nature changed from heaven to hell, b
And wicked children did rebel. c
Were they all Pedobaptists?

P. When wickedness rose up its crest,
And evil ones became a pest,
Almighty wrath broke up the nest,
And infants perish'd with the rest.
What think ye of it Baptists?

P. Again the world must peopled be,
So with the great divine decree.

* All the verses marked P. in the following Poetical Essay upon Baptism, were written by a Pedobaptist and styled "THE BAPTIST MONITOR," in answer to which, the verses marked B. were written.

a Gen. iii. 17. b Gen. i. 27, vi. 5. c John viii. 44.

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The blessing comes both full and free,
And infants share with you and me.
Old Noah was no Baptist.

B. When men by Satan were deceived,
Till they the Holy Spirit grieved, a
Eight adults on God's word believed,
And were from sudden death reprieved.
Pray were they Pedobaptists?

B. Baptism's figure must be tried, b
And heaven's windows opening wide,
The broken fountains rolled a tide, c
Above, beneath, round every side
Of these eight faithful Baptists.

P. Next Abraham comes into view;
With covenants he had much to do:
His ways were faithful just and true,
And infant claims were nothing new.
Mark well the word ye Baptists.

P. That faithful, great, and good old man
Well understood the gospel plan:
The promise in broad numbers ran,
To infant seed—deny who can.
Give ear ye simple Baptists.

P. The nation's father is his name
No other man has such a claim,
And does it not remain the same?
If infants fail, who are to blame?
It seems to be the Baptists.

P. The promise runs through ages all,
For Jesus has the power to call,

a Gen. vi. 6. b I. Pet. iii. 21. c Gen. vii. 11.

Until he burns this earthly ball,
And gathers home both great and small.
Mind well your steps ye Baptists.

Behold love's wondrous power displayed! a
With Christ the better covenant made, b
In which believers, Christ's true seed,
Were from the Law's sad curses freed c
By Christ the blessed Baptist.

If ye are Christ's, ye're Abraham's seed, d
And such a remnant shall be freed: e
But God spared not the natural breed, f
Because by nature man's a weed!
What think'st thou Pedobaptist? g

Are the believers' natural seed
All members of Christ's Church? Indeed! h
Is this the Pedobaptist creed
By which church membership they plead?
Then farewell Pedobaptist.

Here in a desert barren land,
Old natures branches built on sand i
Contrary to a strict command; k
When storms assail, how can they stand? l
Pray tell us Pedobaptist.

While you the natural branches take, m
Not fitly framed a house to make, n
We'll use the ones, for Jesus' sake, o
That have been brought life to partake; p
Believing ere they're baptised. q

---

a 1 John iii. 1, 2. b Heb. viii 6. c Gal. iii. 13. d Gal. iii. 29. e Rom. ix. 27. f Rom. xi. 21. g Mat. xiii. 29, 38. h Rom. ix. 7, 8. i John viii. 33, 44. k Mat. iii. 9. l Mat. vii. 27. m Eph. ii. 3. n Rom. ix. 8. o Mat. vii. 20. Eph. i. 19. p Acts viii. 12. q 37.

B. Tho' ye against the builders rail, a
The Master's voice with joy we hail; b
His words of life can never fail, c
The gates of hell shall not prevail d
Against believing Baptists. e

B. Those trees which Jesus came to plant, f
He'll life and spirit to them grant, g
And heavenly showers when they want, h
Or with the scorching heat grow faint. i
Let only such be baptized. k

B. Each one of faith will get a rest, l
And be with faithful Abr'ham blest, m
And by the heavenly host caressed, n
Where at the marriage feast a guest,
With wedding garments baptized. o

B. My friend, behold an olive wild p
Graffed in by faith, and Abrah'm's child
A member of the Devil stiled, q
To make us humble, meek and mild. r
Think on this Pedobaptist.

B. Faith has a firm foundation stone s
The just shall live by faith alone; t
Nor will the fathers do the son, u
Or bring him to the great Three One. v
Think on this Pedobaptist.

B. And cease your children to deceive, w
Nor teach them longer to believe, x

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a Acts xxi. 21, 28. b John x. 3. c Mat. xxiv. 35. d Mat. xvi. 18. e Mark xvi 16. f Rom. vi. 5. g John vi 40. h Psalms xxxiv. 19. i Jer. xxxi. 12. k Mat. iii. 8, vii. 20. l Heb. iv 9. m Gal. iii 9. n Luke xv 7. o Rev. xix 9, vii. 14, p Rom. xi. 17, 20. q John viii. 44. r Rom. iii. 27. s Gal. iii. 22. t Heb. x. 38. u Ezek. xiv. 14. v Ezek. xviii. 4, 5, 10, 13. w Gal. vi. 12, 13. x Gal. v 2, 3.

That by your faith they do receive, a
Birth in Christ's church, or his reprieve. b
'Tis wrong O Pedobaptist.

B. The Saviour, with the Apostle cries, c
That 'tis in vain with blinded eyes, d
To think by parentage to rise,
Till freed they can't obtain the prize. e
Do read this Pedobaptist.

P. The Baptist John with Jewish rite
Proclaimed the Incarnate Light;
The God of glory came to sight,
And infants praised the Lord of might.
That will not screen you Baptists.

P. While John the servant is long dead,
The Lord of glory hath well sped;
His enemies he down will tread,
And infants claim him as their Head,
Say what ye may ye Baptists.

B. All whom the Saviour dear hath bought, f
Will by his spirit here be sought, g
And in the gospel doctrine taught, h
Till to believe in him they're brought: i
Such may, we know, be baptized. k

B. To turn men's hearts the Lord to praise, l
To preach repentance and baptize, m
According to the Saviour's ways, n
John came. Whoever this denies, o
Must be a Pedobaptist.

---

a Mat. iii. 9. b Gal. v. 3, 5. c John iii. 3. d Rom. ix. 32. e John viii. 33, 36. f John vi. 37. g John xvii. 2, 3, 20. h John vi 45. i Acts xiii 48. k Acts viii 12, 37. l Luke i 16. m John i 33. n Luke i 76. o Luke iii 3.

B. The law and Prophets were till John: a
In him the Saviour's gospel shone, b
While faithfully he warned each one, c
And multitudes came pressing on d
Pray were they Pedobaptists?

B. From God, the Baptist John was sent, e
To break false members he was bent f
He cried to Jewish ones—"repent, g
And be baptized," because he meant,
To make straight paths for Baptists.

B. John did this glorious work begin, h
The Lamb of God a bride to win
And preached till many turned from sin; i
Then Jordan's flood he dipped them in, k
Because he was a Baptist.

B. Think not within yourselves, he cries,
That Abraham's faith gains you the prize,
For God out of these stones can raise
A holy seed to give him praise. l
Amen, cries every Baptist.

B. Lawyers who found their dead works wreck'd,
And Pharisees a zealous sect,
God's holy counsel did reject,
And John's baptism quite neglect, m
Like other Pedobaptists.

B. But forth the heavenly stranger came, n
(Great is his power and great his fame) o

---

a Luke xvi 16. b Mark i 1, John v 35. c Luke iii 8, 11, 13 18. d Luke xvi 16. e John i 6, 33, Mal. i 3. f Luke iii 9. g Mat. iii 2, 3. h Mark i 1, 2. i Luke i 16. k Mark i 5. l Mat. iii 9. m Luke vii 30. n Mat. iii 13. o Col. i 15, 20.

The "Wonderful" shall be his name, a
Who bore the cross, despised the shame b
Of baptism by immersion. c

B. Then coming out of Jordan's flood, d
For us to shed his precious blood, e
(Thus fulfilling what was good,) f
Despised and wet, the Saviour stood, g
A pattern to the Baptists. h

B. But coming quickly from above,
In shape and likeness of a dove, i
The holy spirit John saw move, k
Which with a voice of heavenly love
Did own the blessed Baptist. l

B. Now heavenly wisdom he did teach, m
And glorious gospel sermons preach, n
Which did the hearts of many reach : o
Never had man such glorious speech: p
Do read it Pedobaptist.

B. Your holy water O, how vain ! q
Your sprinkling cannot wash sins stain,
Except a man be born again,
A sight of Heaven he can't obtain. r
Do read this Baptist.

B. If you heaven's kingdom wish to see,
Know that you must converted be, s

---

a Isa. ix 6. b Mat. iii 13, 16. c Mark i 9, 10. d Mark i 10. e Mat. xxvi 28 f Mat. iii 15. g Isa. liii 3. h Mat. x 38. i Mat. iii 16. k John i 32. l Mat. iii 17. m John xii 49. n Isa. lxi 1, 2, 3. o John x 42. p John vii 46. q Heb. ix 9, 10. r John iii 3. s Mat. xviii 3.

And from sin's galling chain set free, a
(Lusts of the eye and flesh to flee,) b
And then you may be baptized. c

P. Our Lord, when on the earth he stood,
Confirmed the blessing, made it good,
The simple ones in sullen mood
Strove to keep back the infant brood—
Much like the modern Baptists.

B. They who to Jesus infants brought,
Say was it sprinkling that they sought?
Or was it sprinkling that they got?
'Twas to be prayed for. Was it not? d
What says the Pedobaptist?

B. Baptism's rite was then in use, e
Though Christ of it made no abuse, f
He prayed for all whom he would choose, g
And was offended at all those
Who seemed to think he should not.

B. 'Tis true, Christ sets some children free, h
And such in Heaven will happy be;
But does he bid an infant flee,
Or carried be by you or me,
To get offence by baptism? i

B. And when they're carried, can they taste?
Strong meat for babes is only waste, k
Much better let them suck the breast.
Go teach them first, you'll find it best, l
For little Pedobaptists.

---

a 1 John iii 5. b 1 John ii 16. c Acts xxii 16. d Mat. xix 13. e John iv 1. f John iii 22, 23. g John xvii 9, 20. h 1 Kings xiv 12, 13. i Mark xvi 15 16. k 1 Cor. iii 2. l Mat. xxviii. 19.

B. The symbol used not understood,
Of washing in Christ's precious blood, a
Doth much offend the infant brood.
How can it do them any good?
Pray tell us Pedobaptist.

B. May he, who blessed some once, arise
As others grow, to ope their eyes,
And to salvation make them wise:
Thus pray, and give them good advice,
As do the Christian Baptists.

P. The Holy Spirit did descend,
To spread the word to the world's end,
The stubborn will of man to bend,
And infants' causes to defend
Against unruly Baptists,

P. When Peter preached the word of life
To win the Lamb a loving wife,
About the promise made no strife.
Infants felt not the pruning knife.
How much unlike the Baptists!

P. Peter the ancient promise knew,
And still he kept the same in view,
Miraculous gifts were for a few:
Infants with them had nought to do.
Look well and see ye Baptists.

B. The gospel promise is to all
That will believe, says worthy Paul: b
And Peter says to great and small—
As many as the Lord shall call. c
Do read it Pedobaptist.

---

a Rev. i 5. b Gal. iii 22. c Acts ii 39.

B. Gospel hearers are apprised,
If they'll repent and be baptized,
They'll get the Holy Ghost, so prized.
The call* to infants, who surmised, a
Except the Pedobaptists ?

P. The promise being forward brought,
The Spirit in the people wrought—
Whole families the church has got,
Were there infants ? Were there not ?
What say contracted Baptists ?

B. Baptists, you know, have always owned, b
True penitents wherever found,
That heard salvation's joyful sound, c
Till faith with each one did abound,
And such they always baptized.

B. By gospel grace which christians prized, d
Those households all were aggrandized ;
They all believed and were baptized e
That such were infants, who surmised,
Except the Pedobaptist ?

P. All ye that are of human kind,
What Joel spoke, pray call to mind,
For children must a ransom find,
And sucklings not be left behind.
God claims them—not the Baptists.

B. All parents of th' Arminian kind,
That can a drop of water find,
Leave not a sucking child behind,
But to the law them strictly bind, f
And make them Pedobaptists.

---

* "Repent and be baptised every one of you."
a Acts ii 38. b Acts xvi 40. c Acts x 24, 44, 48. d Acts x 24, 44, 48. e Acts xviii 8, xvi 32, 33, 34. f Gal. vii 2, 3, 4,

P. When Paul was preaching far and near
The gospel doctrine fair and clear,
He held the parent's faith most dear,
The children holy, without fear
Of arguments from Baptists.

B. Paul held the unbeliever too,
As holy as the infant crew: a
Then should not sprinkling be his due,
If it makes nature's children new
As held by Pedobaptists? b

B. Paul with the Saviour hath agreed
That faithful Abrah'm's natural breed, c
And Gentiles too, are Satan's seed d
Till they're from sin's sad bondage freed. e
Do read this Pedobaptist.

B. Lest you again should ask or say,
"Are we not better far than they? f
Our children all in Zion's way?
Are others born in Christ's church? Pray
Are not the Pedobaptists?" g

B. But hear what the Apostle cries:
You better! not in any wise, h
In sin all born of woman lies. i
Those who believe in Christ may rise,
And be in water baptized. k

B. How plainly Scripture has revealed,
That Adam's branches in this field

---

a 1 Cor. vii. 14. b See Church Catechism. c John viii. 44. d Eph. ii. 3. e John viii. 36. f Rom. iii. 9. g See Rev. Dr. Ross's late pamphlet. h Rom. iii. 9. i Rom. iii. 9, 10, 11, &c. k Acts xxii. 16. "Arise, &c."

With thorns and briars daily filled,
Will neither fruit or profit yield,
Till to the true vine grafted.

B. The following question closely view't;
When trees with life do bud and shoot,
By virtue from old Jesse's root,
Or when the good tree bears good fruit,
Is it young Pedobaptists ?

P. Let infant martyrs praise and sing
The glories of th' Eternal King:
From womb and breast he did them bring.
This is no vain or trifling thing;
Do ponder on it Baptists.

B. All the redeemed will gladly sing
The praises of th' Eternal King,
Who infants to his arms can bring,
Without such new invented thing,
As sprinkling them with water.

P. The Lamb of God has lambs on earth,
Lambs in practice, lambs by birth:
His lambs will praise with holy mirth,
Though Satan strive to make a dearth
Of such among the Baptists.

B. Satan has also goats on earth, a
Goats in practice, goats by birth, b
They'll take God's name in vain for mirth:
Of such does sprinkling make a dearth
Among the Pedobaptists ?

P. When Israelites were all baptized,
The cloud hung o'er the sea well poised,

---

a John iii. 8. b Eph. ii. 3.

And Pharaoh's chariots were capsized:
Immersion never was surmised
By any but the Baptists.

B. To Israel's sacraments you flee
Where Pharaoh like, you can't them see a
When *in* the cloud baptized they be b
And going *in* and *out* of sea,
A figure of true baptism.

P. In Moses' time at God's command,
The law was published in the land:
Baptism flowed from his right hand,
And sprinkling was the law demand.
Shut not your eyes ye Baptists.

P. Then holy priests did mend the matter,
Among the people blessings scatter,
Sometimes with blood, sometimes with water,
And all without such idle clatter
As may be heard from Baptists.

B. Those diverse washing had a flaw; c
In Jesus' yoke you will not draw,
But build with stubble hay and straw, d
And prove your sprinkling from the law, e
Which Jesus Christ abolish'd. f

B. Believers from the law are freed, g
They learned from Christ another creed, h
When he came forth to die and bleed,
And set a pattern to his seed
Despised by Pedobaptists.

---

a Exod. xiv. 20. b 1 Cor. x. 1, 2. c Heb. ix. 10, 19, viii, 7. d 1 Cor. iii. 12. e Gal. iv. 21. f Eph. ii. 15. g Col. ii. 14. Gal. v. 5.

B. But Antichrist to make things better,
For gospel published idle clatter, a
Made clean the outside of the platter,
By sprinkling babes with holy water,
Like other Pedobaptists.

P. The prophet latter days could see,
When Jews and Gentiles joined would be ;
The gospel spread from sea to sea,
And *sprinkled* nations bow the knee.
Dare you deny it Baptists ?

B. The knees will bow in every place
Where God doth sprinkle hearts with grace :
But when man sprinkles but the face,
How can it help the guilty race
Of any Pedobaptist ?

P. The smallest promise from the Lord,
More precious far than golden cord
Does come through Christ as his reward ;
And *sprinkling* promised in his word.
Don't slight the text ye Baptists.

P. The form was never changed I wot,
If so, the Bible says it not ;
But dupes another way have got.
O may it never be my lot,
To be a dipping Baptist.

B. Christ's church on earth they cannot see, b
Who to the legal yoke do flee. c
They cannot wait till faith comes free, d
But think their children saved can be,
By sprinkling them with water.

---

a Tradition. b Rom. xi. 8. c Rom. ix. 32. d Gal. iii. 25.

B. The ceremonial law was changed, a
By him who in death's shades was plunged, b
Who this denies must be deranged,
Or from the gospel truths estranged
As far as Pedobaptists.

B. Christ set a pattern—did he not?
But "dupes" soon from the Baptists got,
And Moses for their leader sought.
Bless'd be the friend that cast my lot
Among the humble Baptists.

P. Immersion has no promise given
By the great Lord of earth and heaven;
This lump of Anabaptist leaven,
To thousands more than six or seven
Has been proclaimed by Baptists.

B. To thousands three that ceased to stray,
This was proclaimed in one day: c
They baptized were the Saviour's way,
Which John prepared the Scriptures say. d
What says the Pedobaptist?

P. When Jesus Christ rose from the grave
A sinful world to hold and save,
Then *first* this sacrament he gave:
The Triune baptism he would have.
Is it not so, say Baptists?

B. By Christ, and servants in his stead e
Disciples were baptized and made, f
Before he died. He broke the bread,
And poured the wine before he bled. g
What say the Pedobaptists?

---

a Col. ii. 14. b Luke xii. 50. c Acts ii. 41. d Luke i. 76. e John iv. 1. f John iii. 22. g Mat. xxvi. 26, 27, 28.

B. By John, Christ's way prepared they saw,
In which they quickly found a flaw,
Condemned it, for being under law,
Yet did from Moses sprinkling draw,
And railed against the Baptists.

P. This holy rite now let us view,
God's children take it old and new,
Are crucified and buried too,
And dead with Christ, if Paul be true,
Cross and sheet wanting, Baptists.

B. The christian's baptism let us view,
When dead to sin they're buried too, a
And raised to walk with Christ anew;
But show us how this figure true
Is found in infant sprinkling.

P. The Baptist brood with errors rough,
At Bible truths may bark and puff,
With Munster slime, and Newlight stuff;
But judgment comes, and that—enough.
Be on your guard ye Baptists.

P. The blood of bulls, of goats or rams,
Will sooner furnish saints with palms,
Than errors black, or fits or qualms,
With Jesuit-logic, or Watts's psalms
Can clear up truths for Baptists.

B. If it be justice to retort,
May I not ask, to stop you short,
Upon the forehead of what sort
Is "MOTHER OF HARLOTS" set by art?
Pray tell us Pedobaptist.

---

a Rom. vi. 4.

B. When angels pour wrath's vials even, [a]
Will thousands sprinkled, not be driven
Where Watts's hymns, and songs of [illegible]
Will ne'er be sung, or new names [illegible]
What think'st thou Pedo[illegible]

B. When unlike Watts a writer ro[illegible]
Must have recourse to "bark an[illegible]
With "Munster slime, and Newlight stu[illegible]
'Tis time to quit that is enough,
To show what spirit leads him.

P. Say O my soul how canst thou stay,
And see thy friends thus led astray,
To Satan's errors made a prey.
O let me hasten far away,
And bid farewell to Baptists.

B. Lord, take the beam from's eye I pray,
Restore him, for he is astray,
And when he goes, may't be away,
To realms of everlasting day,
To sing thy praise with Baptists.

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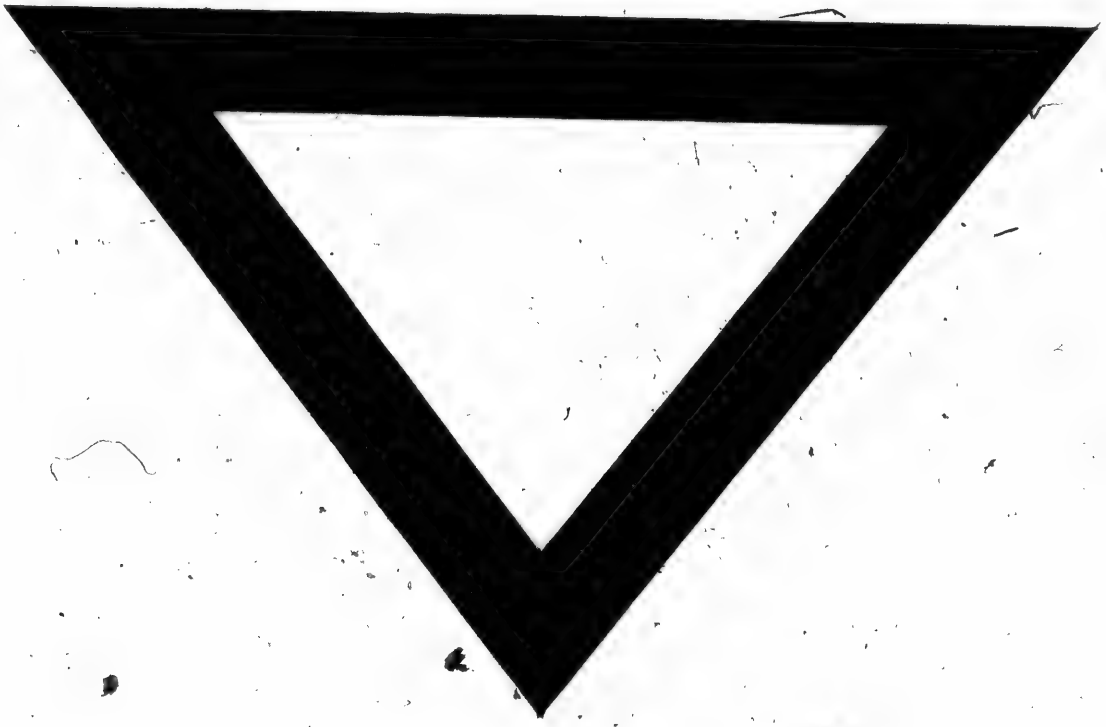
a Rev. xvi. 17, 18, 19.

FINIS.